

scenes activities of Comintern emissaries is presented. But the authors insist that the outcome of the Tours and Livorno Congresses was arranged and determined by Lenin and other Bolsheviks. Such simplistic treatment adds little and is inferior to the brilliant analyses of the origins of French communism by Robert Wohl and Annie Kriegel and of the origins of Italian communism by John M. Cammett and Paolo Spriano.

The authors' use of sources deserves comment. A significant number of unpublished confidential documents—minutes of Comintern Executive Committee and Presidium meetings and correspondence between Comintern leaders and chiefs of the German and French parties—have been used. They are cited in the footnotes as being in the possession of the authors. If history is not to deteriorate into a branch of philately, these valuable documents should be deposited in a library open to scholars of diverse orientations (especially since the authors quite rightly complain about the Moscow Institute of Marxism-Leninism's being closed to scholars). Extensive use has been made of the memoir literature, but considering its generally tendentious nature, it seldom has been checked against other sources (M. N. Roy's *Memoirs*, for instance, written in the 1950s, are used without circumspection in reconstructing the drafting of theses on the national and colonial questions at the Comintern Second World Congress in 1920).

In turning to this work the reader is advised to separate the contributions on the Comintern underground from the larger conspiratorial framework. Every historian writes from a point of view; reductionism is another matter.

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RABOCHII KLASS ROSSII V 1917 GODU. By L. S. Gaponenko. Moscow: "Nauka," 1970. 579 pp. 2.56 rubles.

RABOCHIE IUGA ROSSII: 1914-FEVRAL' 1917 G. By Iu. I. Kir'ianov. Moscow: "Nauka," 1971. 307 pp. 1.24 rubles.

These are two of the most important Soviet books to appear on labor in the past decade. Each is a clearly organized and well-written work of Soviet scholarship. Each, of course, is bound by the fundamental assumptions and theoretical framework of Marxism-Leninism within that total conceptual structure. Each makes a particular departure, however, from previous Soviet scholarship in its field. The function of both is to reassess the relations of labor and the party in the revolutionary situation and to emphasize the role of the party, and Lenin as its leader, in guiding and directing labor to the victory of proletarian dictatorship. Each of the books begins with a bibliographical essay discussing previous secondary works on the subject and describing new primary sources which Kirianov and Gaponenko have used. Bibliographies are also appended. They and particularly the essays are extremely valuable especially to Western scholars. The bibliographies themselves contain no Western works, but footnotes in the text sometimes refer to Western scholarship, refuting from a Soviet-Marxist-Leninist basis contentions by "bourgeois historians" in the field. One of the interests both these books hold for Western scholars is an historiographical one. There is, moreover, reason to suspect that this new Soviet point of view on labor and the Soviet revolution is not directed at the "bourgeois" West but more directly, even if more subtly, at points of view

in other Soviet states or branches of the party where deviations of a particular nature are being made concerning the meaning and roles of labor in the revolution. The appearance of both books within a year's time under the same general editorship and publication may indicate the importance and orthodoxy of this new point of view (or what some may regard as reiteration of the old).

It would be misleading, however, to regard these books as having merely or even principally an historiographical interest. The sophisticated reader versed in the theoretical bases of Marxism-Leninism will understand what the emphases and lack of them are and will still find much that is informative and interesting. Gaponenko's book, dealing as it does not only with the February but with the October Revolution, is somewhat more polemical than Kirianov's, and the latter author maintains a more reserved and objective tone. But both books are truly interdisciplinary in their methodology and orientation. Both deal with what to us are the varied disciplines of political science, sociology, and economics, and treat them as an integrated whole, with skill and mastery.

Gaponenko is particularly effective in presenting concretely the living conditions and mood of revolutionary Petrograd, and he has confirmed for us the importance of the factory committees, their Red Guards, and workers' control as a means of Bolshevik disruption of the Provisional Government. Although there is only one location from which he views the Mensheviks and Social Revolutionaries, they receive a share of his attention, as they also do in Kirianov's book—and from the same location. The Anarchists, however, are in effect ignored by both writers, although their role in workers' control seems to have been a significant one. Such oversights, however, as already mentioned, are understandable enough and there is no need to carp at them. One can appreciate the clear presentation of the relations between workers, their organizations, industry, the soviets, the government, the war, the parties, Marxist-Leninist theory, and the events in which they were interwoven.

Kirianov's book treating the workers of southern Russia from 1914 to February 1917 deals with their number and composition, their way of life, party and legal organizations, and the proletarian movement. His presentation is rational and clear, and evidence for his facts is generous.

Gaponenko deals with the proletariat in Russia during 1917. He also includes a description of the extent, composition, and disposition of the working class and continues then to discuss its role in the February Revolution and in the months to October and the seizure of power. Gaponenko's excellent bibliography includes more than five pages of Lenin's works, but his citations from them, numerous as they are, are chosen with finesse and artistry and serve a valid purpose. His book should be of interest not only to those concerned with Soviet labor but also to those interested in the revolutionary days.

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WITNESS TO REVOLUTION: LETTERS FROM RUSSIA, 1916-1919. By Edward T. Heald. Edited by James B. Gidney. Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 1972. xx, 367 pp. \$10.00.

Edward T. Heald was secretary of the Davenport, Iowa, branch of the YMCA when, in June 1916, he was asked to go to Russia to participate in the Y's extensive